
A Small/Large Perfin Article

Bob Szymanski (LM-145)

In speaking with our *Bulletin* Editor, I found out that the well was almost dry and could I please help prime the pump with a big perfin article. Now the President is responsible for a lot of things but I know that you readers don't want to hear only from me so how about digging out something interesting and inundating our Editor with such a copious amount of material that he has an actual backlog!

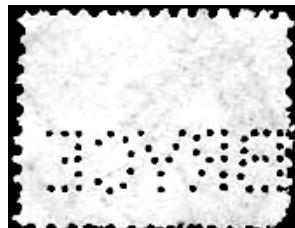
Now, what to write for a large article? Well, let's see. Large articles take time and Paul needs something quickly so what can I find that would be interesting and challenging to all?

A year and a half ago in August, 2003, I issued a challenge to our members to show me that someone or some group of members could come up with a calendar of perfins - that is any one month of any calendar year with one perfin from any country with a cancel for each date. A \$100.00 prize was offered to anyone doing this in the following twelve months. Easy? Apparently not; no one came forward to claim the prize. I will have to admit that after saving perfins with date cancels from the years 1880 through 1980, I have only six months in which I have over a half of the dates and I have been trying to do this for over three years. I could have a few more but these are only the duplicates that go into this "exotic" collection.

Dave Begin was the only member with whom I spoke about this endeavor in some detail. We both believed that with the large amount of duplicate perfins, we should find something or some way of

utilizing the duplicates and this sounded like a novel idea. Rather than put an ad in the *Bulletin*, I will ask here for any members to send me any quantity of any perfins from any country that have readable date cancels. If the date is readable I will offer a minimum of 5 cents each, and if the date and town are readable a minimum of ten cents each. If and when I have enough, I'll let you know, but they are not that common!

The calendar perfin collection brings me to the next part of this article. Take a look at the face and back of the perfin shown. I will submit this as the "smallest" and one of the oldest date cancelled perfins with a "complete" perfin punch! The perfin is "Bryce" and the date is August 1, 1879 in the city of Glasgow, Scotland. The stamp is a Scott #58 in use in the 1870's. I do not know what the 5 under Glasgow and the N.P.B. stand for but maybe someone with a familiarity with British cancels can elucidate the matter for us. I can not even put this one into my collection as my date calendar only starts at Jan 1, 1880.



So that is the big perfin article on a small perfin!